



*Daniel K. Inouye*  
*United States Senator*

# REPORT TO HAWAII

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## Working to Ensure Our Safety and Security

The security of our nation has always been one of my highest priorities, and since the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, I have redoubled my efforts to ensure the safety of Hawaii and our nation.

I recently urged the Department of Homeland Security, which is in the process of establishing homeland security regions within the United States, to establish a specific region to cover Hawaii, Alaska, and the U.S. territories in the Pacific. Designating this vast area as its own homeland security region will ensure the efficiency of administrative and training operations in an area with specialized needs that are inherently different from the continental United States.

Given Hawaii's location in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, we must focus more on securing our air and sea links.

Furthermore, I have recommended that comprehensive training centers be established in Hawaii, as well as Alaska, to provide a full range of general and specialized training for local and state first responders, and our citizens.

Last year, I was appointed to the newly created Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security. The work is formidable because while funding for homeland security is extremely important, we must bal-

Chevron and Tesoro, which have refineries in the islands, have received a combined total of nearly \$5.3 million in grants to strengthen their port security measures.

I have also supported efforts by some of my colleagues to increase homeland security funding by redirecting funds from other areas, such as the tax breaks for those with annual incomes of more than \$1 million.

What does not show up in the tally of direct homeland security funding are grants that are also crucial to fighting terrorism and protecting our nation.

For example, I have supported an Aiea biotechnology company, Hawaii Biotech, Inc., in securing a total of \$10

million from the Department of Defense and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to advance its research to develop an "inhibitor" to the lethal toxin released by the anthrax bacteria that may be a possible antidote for an anthrax attack. Hawaii Biotech continues to receive \$2.2 million each year from the Department of Defense to carry out its important research.



*Senator Inouye chats with Coast Guard Commandant Thomas Collins following a homeland security appropriations hearing.*

ance competing funding needs, from critical health and education programs to supporting U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As of April 2004, Hawaii has received approximately \$89 million in homeland security, port security, and emergency management grants. Of that total, the State of Hawaii, and the City and County of Honolulu have received nearly \$77 million.

# Education Crucial for Individual, Community Success

Education reform has engaged many in our community about what we must collectively do to raise the level of student achievement in Hawaii. Interest and awareness are high, and the dialogue is fluid.

I remain hopeful that a series of actions will emerge from this debate to directly enhance the relationship between teacher and student which, in turn, will result in greater achievement. Many of the priorities are simple basics; others are quite out of the box. I hope we will move forward on those initiatives that directly and positively impact upon student learning.

On the federal side, I have worked to ensure that Hawaii gets at least its fair share of funds to support our educational needs. We must continue to advocate for a greater share of the federal budget to be spent on the education of the next generation of America's leaders, rather than on tax breaks for those who have already succeeded.

First, in the area of Impact Aid, Hawaii receives about \$40 million each year to help offset the cost of educating our military children. Furthermore, additional funding of \$5 million is provided annually to assist

those schools with large numbers of military dependents.

Second, I continue to work to secure approximately \$33 million annually for Native Hawaiian education programs that include recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian teachers, curriculum development



*Reporters interview Senator Inouye following an education appropriations hearing at Kaimuki High School.*

in language immersion, and post-secondary scholarships for Native Hawaiian students. This year, I hope to increase the funding level to provide assistance to the Hawaii Department of Education's Hawaiian immersion schools and Hawaiian charter schools.

Third, Hawaii's Title I funding—the largest federal elementary and

secondary education program—has increased substantially over the past four years, from \$26.5 million in 2001 to \$43.3 million in 2004.

Title I funding supplements State dollars to assist underachieving children, particularly in low-income communities, financing additional academic support for these children.

Lastly, in 2000, Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska and I established a Title III program in our respective states for our institutions of higher learning to increase the recruitment, retention and successful graduation of more Native Hawaiians and Native Alaskans, and minority and disadvantaged students. Hawaii receives annual funding of about \$5.5 million to support remedial education, mentoring and tutors, and new pathways that lead to positive outcomes.

The more young people we are able to inspire and assist in completing their education, the greater their quality of life and opportunities. They become trailblazers for those who will follow their path. The more worn the path, the greater our success as a community and a state. The path of education remains society's greatest equalizer.

## *Hawaii 3R's Shine*

About four years ago, and with the support of many, I initiated Hawaii 3R's to help reduce the huge repair and maintenance backlog in our public schools. In 2003, it received national recognition from the Council of State Governments as an innovative public-private partnership.

I am proud of the federal funds that go to Hawaii 3R's to match the State and private dollars, as well as donations and volunteers' time—both skilled and unskilled. The results are improved learning environments and school pride. Interested schools apply for grants, demonstrating at least a 1-to-1

match in "sweat equity," including donations of time or supplies.

To date, 81 grants have been awarded throughout the state. For every government dollar spent, more than \$4 in work is completed, saving the State of Hawaii more than \$5.3 million, and paying precious dividends in community support and lessons learned in civic responsibility.



# Joining the Fight to Turn the Heat Up on ‘Ice’

## *Initiatives Focus on Enforcement, Prevention, Treatment*

In August 2001, Big Island Mayor Harry Kim and I met to discuss the rising crystal meth, or “ice,” problem in Hawaii County. It was a sobering briefing, and I was saddened by what I learned. This drug knows no ethnic or class boundaries—it affects rich and poor, educated and illiterate on all islands.

At that moment, I committed myself to become a part of the solution, a solution for which there would be no silver bullet. It is not only about additional law enforcement, increased rehabilitation services, or better prevention and enrichment activities. It is going to take all of the above, working together.

A large part of my commitment has been to find federal resources to implement recommendations in the key areas of enforcement, prevention, and treatment. To date, I have worked to support initiatives on all of the islands, beginning with the Big Island, and now also on Kauai, Maui, Molokai, and Oahu.

Each year, about \$5 million are provided to support federal and local law enforcement partnerships in the war on drugs. The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area and the Hawaii National Guard’s counter-drug program both support enforcement, as well as anti-drug awareness and prevention in the community.

Last year, I also secured \$1 million for the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) to upgrade its evidence lab, and purchase needed equipment for critical DNA testing. I plan to request continued funding for HPD because its evidentiary analysis is crucial to the statewide anti-drug effort. A new Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) helicopter was



*Senator Inouye and the DEA’s John S. Fernandes (right) and Briane M. Grey inspect the DEA’s new helicopter.*

recently added as another detection tool in our enforcement arsenal.

I have also secured federal funds to support the hiring of more police officers and prosecutors, and to expand the drug courts. These funds also will be used for residential treatment programs, particularly for adolescents on the Neighbor Islands, such that they will not need to leave their islands as they do now. These funds will also support a host of community-driven education, prevention, and mentoring programs. I have already made a request to continue the funding next year to reach more communities.

Believing that the long-term answer is education and prevention, I have called upon the YMCA of Oahu

and the Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii to expand their programs’ presence into needed areas, providing more young people with positive enrichment activities in safe, nurturing locations, and away from the temptations of crystal meth. I will be requesting significant funding this year to launch this prevention effort.

I learned a long time ago that the most successful and sustainable solutions come from the community. In the end, it is not only about money. Sure, money helps. But it also takes innovation, commitment, and heart. Communities have risen up, and by their actions have said that they are not giving up. I am proud to do my part, and I join them in battle that we will—and must—win.

# Finding Ways to Create Jobs

Job training and job creation are keys to the vitality of Hawaii's economy, and my recent efforts have focused on:

- **Military construction.** Over the next 10 years, it is estimated that Hawaii will need an additional 7,000 tradesmen and tradeswomen to meet the construction boom that is anticipated with the privatization of nearly 14,000 military family housing units, and the Ford Island development initiative. In preparation, I have been working to provide additional resources to expand the course offerings, in conjunction with the building trades' certified journeymen and apprenticeship programs.

- **Shipyard work.** Four years ago, the average age of

the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard worker was nearing 55. I worked to re-establish the Shipyard's apprenticeship program, halted in 1994 as a result of downsizing, to ensure a robust and skilled local workforce. This four-year program combines academics with trades-oriented training at the Shipyard. To date, 537 apprentices have enrolled; the 114 in the first class under the revived program graduated in August 2003, and all were placed in permanent positions.

- **Cruise ships.** As a result of legislation I sponsored, U.S.-flag ships will again cruise Hawaiian waters. In July, Norwegian Cruise Line America (NCL) will launch its ship, the Pride of Aloha, with a U.S. crew that will ply the Hawaiian Islands. In 2005, NCL



Photo by Marshall Fukuki

*Senator Inouye congratulates Chad Renti Cruz, who graduated last summer from the Pearl Harbor apprenticeship program.*

plans to launch its new ship, the Pride of America, adding another vessel into Hawaiian waters, with a U.S. crew. The total number of employees to staff both ships is estimated at 2,000.

## Keeping in Touch

Dear Friends:

If you would like to share your thoughts on the issues I discussed in this edition of Report to Hawaii, or on any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan".

senator@inouye.senate.gov

### Washington Office\*

722 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Tel.: (202) 224-3934  
Fax: (202) 224-6747

\* Please note that security measures delay the delivery of mail sent to my Washington Office.

### State Office

300 Ala Moana Boulevard  
Suite 7-212  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850  
Tel.: (808) 541-2542  
Fax: (808) 541-2549

### West Oahu Representative

Tel.: (808) 864-5222

### Hilo Office

101 Aupuni Street, No. 205  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
Tel.: (808) 935-0844  
Fax: (808) 961-5163

### Kona Representative

Tel.: (808) 935-0844

### Maui Representative

Tel.: (808) 242-9702

### Kauai Representative

Tel.: (808) 639-0100

### Molokai Representative

Tel.: (808) 553-5916

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510-1102

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel K. Inouye".  
U.S.S.

Postal Patron  
Hawaii